

The Creative Achiever

Wayne Waaka

Wayne is picture here with a few examples of his art and craft creations which he has made while attending the Stewart Centre in Mt Maunganui. Wayne attends two mornings a week, year round and the centre offers him the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of activities including rugby, indoor and outdoor bowls, hockey and swimming as well as taking part in an extensive arts and crafts program. Wayne is a keen sportsman and a skilled craftsman.

Wayne made this game which he likes to call Slammer One Million, in August this year. The craftsmanship is exquisite and Wayne states that it took about 4 months to complete using traditional woodwork techniques and hand tools. The inspiration for the game came from when Wayne was a patient in the Queen Elizabeth Rehabilitation Hospital in Rotorua, where they have a much larger version of the game for patients and their families to play.

Other examples of Wayne's work are a beautiful mosaic coffee table showing a sun made from cut tiles which have been grouted into place; this "Ying Yang" art work created using black and white pebbles mounted onto corrugated iron; a creative map of New Zealand made from recycled items including wire wool, pegs, shells and beads; a dual purpose glazed clay mug/bowl and a heart shaped box decorated with a floral design. These are only a few of the many things that Wayne has created while attending the Stewart Centre. Wayne said that one of the bonuses of creating so much art and craft work is that he always has personally hand crafted gifts for family and friends at Christmas and birthdays.

